AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1   1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~

2 ~~website~~ <u>determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers,</u> comprising the

3 steps of:

4   a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a

5   client;

6   b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-

7   tor identifier;

8   c.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier:

9   assigning a new visitor identifier; ~~and~~

10   sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier

11   to the client;

12   <u>responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-</u>

13   <u>termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;</u>

14   <u>and</u>

15   <u>responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,</u>

16   <u>determining that the client does not accept visitor</u>

17   <u>identifiers.</u>

18   ~~d.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource; and~~

19   ~~e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.~~

1   2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor iden-

2   tifier comprises a cookie.

1   3. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~

2   ~~website~~ <u>determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers,</u> comprising

3   the steps of:

4   a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor

5   having an address;

6   <u>b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;</u>

7   <u>c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, obtaining</u>

8   <u>data associated with the visitor identifier and determining</u>

9   <u>that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers:</u>

10   <u>d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:</u>

11   ~~b~~ <u>d.1</u>) determining whether the request ~~for the resource in-~~

12   ~~cluded~~ <u>includes</u> a<u>n</u> ~~do not repeat~~ indicator <u>that step</u>

13   <u>d.3) has been performed</u>;

14   ~~c~~ <u>d.2</u>) responsive to the request including the ~~do not repeat~~

15   indicator <u>that step d.3) has been performed</u>, assigning

16   a visitor identifier from the requestor's address <u>and</u>

17   determining that the requestor does not accept visitor

18   identifiers;

19   d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator

20   that step d.3) has been performed:

21   assigning a new visitor identifier;

22   sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-

23   ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator

24   that step d.3) has been performed; and

25   repeating steps a-d.

26   ~~d.) categorizing data received with the request for the resource; and~~

27   ~~e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.~~

1   4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor iden-

2   tifier comprises a cookie.

1   5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining

2   whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:

3   comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor identi-

4   fiers; and,

5   in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid

6   visitor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include

7   the visitor identifier.

1   6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor iden-

2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1   7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, <u>further comprising</u>

2 ~~wherein step d.) comprises~~:

3   <u>d.)</u> categorizing ~~the~~ data <u>sent with the request for the resource</u> by at

4   least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor iden-

5   tifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.

1   8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor iden-

2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1   9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, <u>further compris-</u>

2 <u>ing</u> ~~wherein step e.) comprises~~:

3   repeating steps a-d for a predetermined amount of time.

1   10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, <u>further com-</u>

2 <u>prising</u> ~~wherein step e.) comprises~~:

3   repeating steps a-d until receiving a particular request for a re-

4   source.

1   11. (Currently amended) A data collection server for ~~tracking the use of~~

2   ~~resources on a website~~ <u>determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifi-</u>

3   <u>ers,</u> comprising:

4   a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource

5   <u>from a requestor</u> and sending a visitor identifier;

6   a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for <u>per-</u>

7   <u>forming the steps of</u>:

8   ~~testing the request for the resource;~~

9   <u>a)</u> determining whether the request <u>includes</u> a<u>n</u> indicator

10   <u>that step c) has been performed</u> ~~checking whether a~~

11   ~~do not repeat indicator is present in the request for~~

12   ~~the resource;~~

13   <u>b) responsive to the request including the indicator that step</u>

14   <u>c) has been performed, assigning a visitor identifier;</u>

15   <u>and</u>

16   <u>c0 responsive to the request not including the indicator that</u>

17   <u>step c) has been performed:</u>

18   <u>assigning a new visitor identifier;</u>

19   <u>causing the communication interface to send to the</u>

20   <u>requestor a redirection request including the</u>

21   <u>new visitor identifier and an indicator that step</u>

22   <u>c) has been performed;</u> and

23   ~~assigning the visitor identifier;~~

24   a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a

25   session end for a particular visitor identifier; and

26   a repository for<u>:</u>

27   storing data sent with the request for the resource<u>;</u>

28   <u>responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, stor-</u>

29   <u>ing data associated with the visitor identifier and de-</u>

30   <u>termining that the requestor accepts visitor identifi-</u>

31   <u>ers; and</u>

32   <u>responsive to the request including the indicator that step c)</u>

33   <u>has been performed, determining that the requestor</u>

34   <u>does not accept visitor identifiers.</u>

1   12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein

2   the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1   13. (Cancelled).

1   14. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~

2   ~~website~~ determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the

3   steps of:

4   sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collec-

5   tion server;

6   in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

7   receiving a new visitor identifier and a redirection request

8   from the data collection server;

9   responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,

10   sending ~~the~~ a second request for a resource with the new

11   visitor identifier to the data collection server; and

12   responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,

13   sending a second request for a resource without the new

14   visitor identifier to the data collection server; and~~,~~

15   receiving the requested resource.

1   15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the visitor

2   identifier comprises a cookie.

1   16. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~

2   ~~website~~ determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the

3   steps of:

4   sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collec-

5   tion server;

6   in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

7   a) receiving a new visitor identifier ~~do not repeat indicator~~

8   and a redirection request from the data collection server, the

9   redirection request including an indicator that step c) has

10   been performed;

11   b) responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,

12   sending ~~the~~ a second request for a resource with the new

13   visitor identifier ~~do not repeat indicator~~ to the data collection

14   server, the second request including an indicator that step c)

15   has been performed; and~~,~~

16   c) responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identi-

17   fier, sending a second request for a resource without the new visi-

18   tor identifier to the data collection server, the second request in-

19   cluding an indicator that step c) has been performed; and

20   receiving the requested resource.

1   17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the visitor

2   identifier comprises a cookie.

1   18. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer

2   readable code embodied thereon , said computer readable code for programming

3   one or more computers to perform a method for ~~tracking the use of resources on~~

4   ~~a website~~ <u>determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers,</u> comprising the

5   steps of:

6   a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a

7   client;

8   b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-

9   tor identifier;

10   c.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier:

11   assigning a new visitor identifier; ~~and~~

12   sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier

13   to the client;

14   <u>responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-</u>

15   <u>termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;</u>

16   <u>and</u>

17   <u>responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,</u>

18   <u>determining that the client does not accept visitor</u>

19   <u>identifiers.</u>

20 ~~d.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource; and~~

21 ~~e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.~~

1 19. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer

2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming

3 one or more computers to perform a method for ~~tracking the use of resources on~~

4 ~~a website~~ <u>determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers,</u> comprising

5 the steps of:

6 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor

7   having an address;

8 <u>b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;</u>

9 <u>c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, obtaining</u>

10   <u>data associated with the visitor identifier and determining</u>

11   <u>that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers:</u>

12 <u>d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:</u>

13   ~~b~~ <u>d</u>.1) determining whether the request ~~for the resource in-~~

14   ~~cluded~~ <u>includes</u> a<u>n</u> ~~do not repeat~~ indicator <u>that step</u>

15   <u>d.3) has been performed;</u>

16   ~~c~~ d.2) responsive to the request including the ~~do not repeat~~

17   indicator <u>that step d.3) has been performed</u>, assigning

18   a visitor identifier from the requestor's address <u>and</u>

19   <u>determining that the requestor does not accept visitor</u>

20   <u>identifiers</u>;

21   <u>d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator</u>

22   <u>that step d.3) has been performed:</u>

23   <u>assigning a new visitor identifier;</u>

24   <u>sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-</u>

25   <u>ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator</u>

26   <u>that step d.3) has been performed; and</u>

27   <u>repeating steps a-d.</u>

28   ~~d.) categorizing data received with the request for the resource; and~~

29   ~~e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.~~

1   20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19,

2   wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1   21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the received re-

2   quest identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ re-

3   source <u>identified by the received request</u>.

1   22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the received re-

2 quest identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ ad-

3 dress <u>identified by the received request</u>.

1   23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redi-

2 rection request comprises sending a redirection request including a<u>n</u> ~~do not re-~~

3 ~~peat~~ indicator <u>that step c) has been performed</u>.

1   24. (Cancelled).

1   25. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~ <u>3</u>, wherein the <u>received</u>

2 request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ re-

3 source <u>identified by the received request</u>.

1   26. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~ <u>3</u>, wherein the <u>received</u>

2 request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ ad-

3 dress <u>identified by the received request</u>.

1   27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein receiving a re-

2 direction request comprises receiving a redirection request including a<u>n</u> ~~do not~~

3 ~~repeat~~ indicator <u>that a first request has been received</u>, and wherein ~~sending~~ the

4 <u>second</u> request for a resource ~~with the new visitor identifier comprises sending~~

5   ~~the request for a resource with the new visitor identifier including~~ <u>includes</u> the

6   ~~do not repeat~~ indicator <u>that a first request has been received</u>.

1   28. (Cancelled).

1   29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first ~~sent~~

2   requests for the resource identifies a resource, and the second ~~sent~~ request identi-

3   fies the ~~same~~ resource <u>identified by the first request</u>.

1   30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   repeating steps a-c until reaching a session expiration.

1   31. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   repeating steps a-c until reaching a session expiration.